Testimony of Phoenix Press, Inc.
Before the Energy and Technology Committee
Regarding
Proposed Bill 203 AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

Submitted by
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Phoenix Press, Inc. is pleased to have the opportunity to comment in support of **Proposed Bill 203** AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

Our Sustainability & Renewable Energy Commitments

We support the principles of sustainability and renewable energy in our everyday business practices. Our customers are excited about our wind turbine directly powering our facility, and we developed a free branding opportunity for them, "Wind to Print," which communicates the generation and use of on-site power harnessed in our backyard. The turbine dwarfs our one-story building, and is a symbol of our commitment to clean, renewable energy.

Our customizable, branding logo allows our customers to promote their environmental commitment - FREE of charge. Showing their current and potential customers, investors, students, parents, buyers, etc. that by using 'Wind to Print' -they're not just talking the talk - they're walking the walk with us .

We have come to realize that the modern manufacturing mantra is no longer solely that of quality, price & service but has become quality, price, service, and carbon. Your carbon footprint is the sum of not only *your* business practices, but that of *all your business partners*. Simply by virtue of allowing Phoenix Press to handle their printing, mailing & fulfillment needs, our customers will be reducing their carbon footprint

Phoenix Press **does not** buy wind credits nor do we sell them. Because we were able, we took it one step further - we installed our own 100kW wind turbine on our property & now create our own **clean** electricity on-site.

Aside from the fact that we're the 1st printer in the country to be powering our manufacturing operation via our own on-site 100kW wind turbine & the fact that we are Connecticut's 1st and only wind turbine of this magnitude (to date).... there are many other environmentally responsible attributes in place at Phoenix Press that set us apart from other green printers.

Our commitment to the environment includes our FSC certification and our use of "Biolocity" soy/vegetable based ink.

As an FSC Certified printer, there are many 'well managed - chain of custody' recycled paper options that we provide. Phoenix Press is proud to use Biolocity inks. Our inks contain low levels of volatile organic chemicals (low-VOC), are soy and vegetable based and are derived from fully renewable sources. Our inks are certified to be friendly to the Earth. The National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers (NAPIM) has established a standardized program for the printing ink industry for calculating and reporting the **bio-derived renewable content (BRC)** of an ink as delivered to us. The BRC labeling program is the first phase of a comprehensive NAPIM initiative for evaluating and minimizing printing inks' environmental impact via the NPIRI Eco Task Force. This first step is focused on the use of bio-derived renewable materials in printing ink. The BRC Index is an important and quantifiable value that can be used in conjunction with existing guidelines for safety, VOC content, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), and absence of heavy metals

We have a substantial recycling program in place for not only paper & corrugated, but aluminum printing plates & ink as well. We have highly efficient lighting in our offices, warehouse and in most of our production area.

We partner with many environmentally conscious vendors who assist us in our on-going greening efforts. Phoenix Press is proud to be an EPA Green Power Partner and a member of the Green Energy Council. We are also a recipient of **the 2010 EPA Green Leadership Award for on-site renewable energy.**

We are also a big proponent of sharing our experience with others so they may be inspired by what we have done. We are constantly giving tours to schools, businesses, municipalities, legislators, etc. – always free of charge.

How did we get the idea for an on site wind turbine?

- Conceived the idea for wind-powered printing after consulting with DEP
- Air-quality measuring station located across the street from facility
- Three years of data were obtained, which showed a good wind resource for on-site energy generation
- Solar power wasn't an option because:
  - The historical building in which Phoenix resides is over 100 years old and the roof wasn't strong enough
  - Shore birds also repeatedly drop clams onto the roof, exposing the panels to ballistic damage, as well as increased wind-loading

Our problem ~ why we are here today:

We were initially told by Alteris Renewables (our installer) that we were in fact exempt from property tax- it's actually listed in our agreement. It was also discussed at various meetings with different officials. However, upon filing of our property declarations, to everyone's surprise, we found out the statute exemption Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81 (57) cited by our installer was not sufficient for our sort of installation. Even though we did receive substantial grants for our project, it was still a HUGE investment for us. Our decision to install the turbine was based on a number of things, on top of the list was the fact that it would be exempt from property tax. Our current property tax in the City of New Haven is nearly unbearable. The addition of any more tax will have a disastrous effect on our 30 year old business.

The exemption, while applicable to us so far as, 'Commercial' sectors and 'Class I renewable energy system', then has a caveat – "applying only to residential dwellings with four or fewer units and farms"

Connecticut

Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency

Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems

Last DSIRE Review: 05/11/2011
Program Overview:

State:	Connecticut
Incentive Type:	Property Tax Incentive
Eligible Renewable/Other Technologies:	Passive Solar Space Heat, Solar Water Heat, Solar Space Heat, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Fuel Cells, Geothermal Heat Pumps, Tidal Energy, Wave Energy, Ocean Thermal, Fuel Cells using Renewable Fuels, Geothermal Direct-Use
Applicable Sectors:	Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Agricultural, (Note: exemption for Class I resources applies only to residential dwelling with four or fewer units and farms)
Amount:	100% exemption for renewable energy property
Authority 1:	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-81 (57)
Date Enacted:	1977 (subsequently amended)

Summary:
Connecticut provides a property tax exemption for "Class I" renewable energy systems* and hydropower facilities that generate electricity for private residential use. The exemption is available for systems installed on or after October 1, 2007, that serve farms, single-family homes or multi-family dwellings limited to four units. In addition, "any passive or active solar water or space heating system or geothermal energy resource" is exempt from property taxes, regardless of the type of facility the system serves.

An exemption claim must be filed with the assessor or board of assessors in the town in which the property is placed on or before the first day of November in the applicable assessment year. Applications are not required each year as long as no major alterations are made to the renewable energy system. Contact your local tax assessor's office for more information.

** A "Class I renewable energy source" is defined as "(A) energy derived from solar power, wind power, a fuel cell, methane gas from landfills, ocean thermal power, wave or tidal power, low emission advanced renewable energy conversion technologies, a run-of-the-river hydropower facility provided such facility has a generating capacity of not more than five megawatts, does not cause an appreciable change in the river flow, and began operation after July 1, 2003, or a sustainable biomass facility with an average emission rate of equal to or less than .075 pounds of nitrogen oxides per million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter, except that energy derived from a sustainable biomass facility with a capacity of less than five hundred kilowatts that began construction before July 1, 2003, may be considered a Class I renewable energy source, or (B) any electrical generation, including distributed generation, generated from a Class I renewable energy source."*

This new proposed Bill No. 203 will satisfy our exemption needs. However, we propose it be retroactive to 2010.

Thank you for your time and consideration.